

News Release
December 15, 2008

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on First 5 Vote to Help
Fund Healthy Families**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued the statement below following the First 5 California Commission's unanimous vote today to provide approximately \$16.75 million to the Healthy Families Program:

"Today's action will allow the state to continue to enroll tens of thousands of infants and children in the Healthy Families Program, ensuring them access to much needed health care services. I appreciate all the various parties who came together to find a solution, including First 5 California and the county First 5 commissions, as well as Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Kim Belshé and Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board Director Lesley Cummings. Protecting the hugely successful Healthy Families Program, which now serves approximately 900,000 children, is a priority of mine, as is ensuring that all kids in California have access to health care. This is why I proposed covering all children as part of my comprehensive health care reform initiative. First 5's vote today is a good short-term step, but I will be working with legislative leaders and the Obama Administration in the coming months to maximize federal dollars so that all children have access to health coverage."